

In the summer of 1977, Mr. Gerhardt transferred his American Legion membership to Wawassan Post No. 422 in Honey Brook. He was elected and installed as Post Chaplain on the night of his official transfer and held that post until he became the 43rd Post Commander on September 15, 1980. He then was appointed Post Adjutant and served in that office continuously for all but two years. Even during his tenure as Post Commander, he more than often handled many of the responsibilities of the Post's Adjutant.

On September 13, 1982, Alfred Gerhardt became the 55th Chester County Commander and was only the second member of his Post to hold this office. He later served as Chester County Adjutant and as Deputy District Commander for many years. His service as Post Commander resumed again on two separate occasions from September 19, 1994 through September 16, 1996 and from September 21, 1998 through September 18, 2000. Throughout many of his years of service, Alfred was the acting Post Service Officer and Post Historian. It was in July of 2002 that he became the Eighth District Commander.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Alfred P. Gerhardt, Jr. for all his years of dedicated and exemplary service to the American Legion and his fellow veterans.

A TRIBUTE TO ISTVÁN DEÁK

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a most talented and remarkable

scholar—Professor István Deák, the Seth Low Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University, and a world-renowned expert about 19th and 20th century Europe.

Professor Deák was born in 1926 in Hungary and after surviving the Second World War, enrolled in college at the University of Budapest. Later, after Hungary was overtaken by the communist regime, Professor Deák fled his homeland and arrived in the United States in 1956. He earned his Doctorate in Modern European History from Colombia University in 1964 and then began a distinguished career as a professor there.

Mr. Speaker, Professor Deák has focused his research on the history of resistance, collaboration and retribution of political movements in 19th and 20th century Europe. His research and publications on this topic has been extraordinary and has provided great insight into this often neglected area of academic pursuit. Professor Deák's research has been especially important when compared to his colleagues working on similar topics but trapped in Eastern Bloc countries. While Professor Deák was able to write and research unfettered, his colleagues in Eastern Europe were dictated to and directed by party rulers that desired to rewrite the history of their regimes in the best possible light. Mr. Speaker, it should be pointed out that while Professor Deák was able to work freely in this country, his work was hindered by the fact that many of his crucial sources remained behind the Iron Curtain, and were often only available to members of the Communist party. As a result, Professor Deák often traveled to Hungary for his research, placing himself in danger. The ruling regime had the power to interrupt his travel if his work was deemed a threat. Undaunted by these constraints, Professor Deák

continued to produce brilliant work on the Hungarian Revolution as well as the history of European Nationalism.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to his extraordinary research and writing talents, Professor Deák devoted much time to his students, both at Columbia and around the world. He lectured in universities in Germany and the United States, where he continuously taught his students to be critical thinkers. He also stressed to his students the idea that history should be considered an art and that their historical prose should be elegant.

Professor Deák is a prodigious writer himself and has authored numerous articles, reviews, and books, including; *Weimar Germany's Left-Wing intellectuals: A Political history of the Weltbühne and its Circle and Beyond Nationalism: a Social and Political History of the Habsburg Officer Corps, 1848–1918*. He continues to prove himself as an articulate and gifted historian; his recent essays have been published in the *New York Review of Books* and *The New Republic*, and he also recently published a book entitled *Essays on Hitler's Europe*.

Mr. Speaker, Professor István Deák is an extraordinary scholar and his work on collaboration and resistance has provided numerous invaluable lessons to our generation and future generations. I urge all my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to him today.